

Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – February 2009

The State Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on February 17th in Montpelier.

Outgoing SBE Members Recognized – The Board recognized the service of outgoing members William Corrow, Chris Robbins and Susan Schill. All three have been members of the Board since 2003. Board Chair Tom James remarked that it had been a privilege to serve with these three as part of the Board, noting that he miss them all and hope to have the good fortune to have paths cross as all continue to serve their respective communities.

Departments of Education and Labor Collaboration – John O’Kane, Chair of the Vermont Work Force Development Council, and Patricia Moulton Powden, Commissioner of Labor, met with Board members to explore alignment of Department of Education and Department of Labor/Workforce Development Council goals in supporting education transformation. O’Kane, Powden and DOE Director of Lifelong Learning David White updated the Board on current collaborative initiatives in which the two agencies are engaged. The discussion also focused on the Board’s input and support for continuing and enhancing collaborative efforts in developing Industry and Education Centers of Excellence (IECE) and in exploring new additional areas for collaboration such as:

- career awareness and career pathway awareness
- program and resource coordination (i.e., Workforce Development Programs, Career and Technical Education Programs, Education Transformation Programs)
- adult technical education

For more information, contact David White, Lifelong Learning Director (David.white@state.vt.us).

Statewide Assessment System – Results from the Fall 2008 administration of grades 3-8 reading and mathematics and grade 5 and grade 8 writing assessments were publicly released on January 28, 2009. DOE Assessment Director Michael Hock reviewed the recent assessment

results with Board members, focusing on trends since 2005 and changes from 2007 in the achievement of all Vermont students as well as on achievement gaps that continue to warrant local and state attention. Full statewide results are available at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/data.html#necap.

Education Transformation Policy

Commission – Appointed by the Vermont State Board of Education, the Education Transformation Policy Commission will be working over the next 9-12 months to bring policy recommendations to the Board for advancing transformation efforts in Vermont. Membership includes:

Name	Title
Mike Deweese	Supt., Chittenden Central SU
Johannah Donovan	Chair, House Education Committee
Retta Dunlap	Parent & School Board member
Michele Forman	Social Studies Teacher, Middlebury UHS
Teri Geney	Parent
Brian Howe	Teacher, Arlington Mem. HS
Tom James	Chair, SBE
Chris Koliba	Director of MPA, UVM
Bill Rivard	Principal, No. Country UHS
Chris Robbins	Business Representative
Brigid Scheffert	Principal, Johnson Elem. Sch.
Laura Soares	School Board member, Randolph
Martha Tucker	Supt., Caledonia Central SU
Kyle Weinreich	Student, Twinfield US
Karrin Wilks	VP, Vt. State Colleges
Lisa Ventriss	President, Vt. Business Roundtable

To view commission resource documents, meeting schedules, meeting minutes, drafts of developing policies as well as a place from which to track the progress and activities of the commission, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/transformation/commission_resources.html.

For additional information, contact Bill Romond (Bill.romond@state.vt.us) or Kay Charron (Kay.charron@state.vt.us).

From the Commissioner

Communication on the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – On February 27, Commissioner Armando Vilaseca sent his first communication to the field regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

“The Vermont Department of Education has been in communication with the US Education Department (USED) to clarify the details and requirements of ARRA and we have begun to analyze this information. Until now there were too many draft versions and incomplete suppositions being circulated to provide you with any definitive information.

For now here are a few items to bring to your attention:

1. We are waiting for the USED to issue guidance concerning the details of the implementation and accountability provisions. In an effort to establish regular communication, VTDOE will post updates in our Weekly Field Memo and establish an ARRA page on our Web site for you to access a variety of information and documents.
2. Separate funds for school modernization were not included in the final bill. House and Senate conferees instead added “facility improvement” as one of many possible uses within the Stabilization Fund. The Governor and the Legislature are studying the many possibilities of the stabilization funds but there have been no decisions to date.
3. Senator Leahy and Governor Douglas have organized an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Workshop to provide an overview of the ARRA and to build better statewide understanding of the various components of the Act. The workshop is on Friday, March 6, 2009 from 1:00 -5:00 p.m. at Champlain College (See attached announcement).

I wish I could provide you with more concrete details at this time but as I mentioned we will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available.”

Use the following links to access more ARRA information from the USED:

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>
<http://www.recovery.gov/>

From the Department

Reminder: Public Comment Opportunity: Proposed Changes to Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) Licensing Regulations (Rule 5100) – Act 214

of the 2006 Vermont legislative session mandated the VSBPE to develop a code of professional ethics and act as an advisor to professional educators regarding its interpretation. The statement of fundamental principles, which all Vermont educators should follow, includes an enumeration of examples of unprofessional conduct which could subject an educator to licensing action. The technical corrections portion of these regulations clarifies rules relating to Career and Technical Education endorsements. The Praxis I waiver requirements put into regulation current Standards Board policies relating to exempting from Praxis I, individuals with disabilities who meet other conditions. Public Comment Period: February 4, 2009 through March 9, 2009. For more information, visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_prostandards/vsbpe/vsbpe.html#comment_5100

Contact: Bob Gross at (802) 828-6544 or at bob.gross@state.vt.us.

Annual English Language Proficiency Test: 2008-2009 ACCESS for ELLs® Assessment Resources – Vermont’s annual English language proficiency assessment, the ACCESS for ELLs®, will be administered to all English Language Learners (ELLs) enrolled in K-12 schools throughout the state during the test window from Monday, March 2, 2009 – Friday, April 17, 2009. The links below provide information and resources to help teachers and administrators understand and administer the tests.

- **Test Overview**

The ACCESS for ELLs® stands for *Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners*. It is a large-scale test that first and foremost addresses

the English language proficiency standards that form the core of the 19-state World-Class Design and Assessment Consortium's (WIDA) approach to instructing and testing English language learners. These standards incorporate a set of model performance indicators (PIs) that describe the expectations educators have of ELL students at five different grade level clusters and in five different content areas. For indepth information about ACCESS for ELLs® and other WIDA assessment tools, including the Alternate ACCESS, WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT), and the new WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten, go to: <http://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS/index.aspx>.

- **English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards (K-12)**
Detailed information about the WIDA Standards, including downloadable versions of WIDA's ELP Standards, 2007 Edition (formative and summative assessment frameworks), can be found at: <http://www.wida.us/standards/elp.aspx>. Also, at this location is the new *Understanding the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards: A Resource Guide*.
- **Proficiency Levels/Tiered Assessment**
View information that will help to understand the WIDA Consortium's K-12 English language [proficiency levels](#) and the [tiered assessment system](#) of the ACCESS for ELLs®.

For more information, contact Jim McCobb (James.McCobb@state.vt.us), ESL Coordinator

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For information on Department of Education sponsored events beginning March 2009 visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>. The calendar is updated regularly.

For more information on the Vermont State Board of Education, visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

To view approved minutes of SBE meetings: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#approved>

To view State Board of Education's Monthly Reports: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly-reports>

2009 State Board of Education Meeting
Dates: March 17; April 14; May 19; June 16

